

49. *CARALLUMA NILAGIRIANA* KUMARI AND SUBBA RAO
(ASCLEPLADACEAE) — A NEW RECORD FROM KARNATAKA

Caralluma nilagiriana was reported as a new species for India by Kumari and Subba Rao (1976) based on the specimens collected on way from Anaikatti and Ebanad in Nilgiri District, Tamil Nadu, in rocky areas at 900 m altitude. They considered this species as allied to *C. truncato-coronata* but differentiated from it on the basis of the characters such as non-succulent roots, deltoid leaves, pellucid glands on the external parts of corolla and others.

The present collection was made from a lateritic hilly area in GKVK campus of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, at an altitude of 800 m. This species is likely to escape attention as the plants are ephemeral and appear only in a small patch of area among bushes partially exposed to sunlight. When a closer observation is made the plant appears striking with its small stature, erect branched stem up to 10 cm height, 6–9 dark purplish

flowers in terminal umbel quite large to the size of the plant.

Caralluma nilagiriana appears to multiply chiefly by root suckers and hence they occur in patches. The flowers open after 9.00 in the morning and remain open until next day and then fall. Fruits were not observed on any plant. In all other characters the plants resemble *Caralluma nilagiriana* described by Kumari and Subba Rao (1976). Thus, the present report has shown that this taxon is not endemic to Nilgiri District but also occurs elsewhere.

Coll.: V. Bhaskar and C.G. Kushalappa, 796, UAS, GKVK, Bangalore North, Karnataka, 2 September 1988, alt. 800 m. Specimens are deposited at Herbarium, Department of Farm Forestry, UAS, GKVK, Bangalore.

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REFERENCES

- KUMARI, G.R. & SUBBA RAO, G.V. (1976): A new species of *Caralluma* (Asclepiadaceae) from India. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 73: 194–196.

50. TWO NEW RECORDS OF ASCLEPIADACEAE FROM MAHARASHTRA

(With a plate and twelve text-figures)

During the course of exploration of rare, endangered and endemic plant species of Maharashtra, the following two interesting plants of Asclepiadaceae were collected from Kolhapur and Satara districts of the State. *Brachystelma edulis* Coll. and Helmsl. which is originally known from upper Burma and Siam (Thailand) is collected from Kolhapur district (Yadav-3601) and forms a new record for India. *Ceropegia juncea* Roxb. has been collected from Satara district (Yadav-4020) and forms a new record for Maharashtra State. As these two species form new records from Maharashtra, descriptions with plate and figure are presented here.

1) *Brachystelma edulis* Coll. and Helmsl. in Journ. Linn. Soc. 28:89, t. 14, 1890.

An erect perennial dwarf herb, 5–12 cm in height with subglobose or depressed tuberous root, tubers 2–10 cm in diameter. Stem terete, 2–3 mm in diameter, branched or unbranched, covered with short downwardly pointed hairs. Leaves sessile or subsessile, linear to linear-lanceolate to narrowly elliptic, 3–8 x 0.4–1 cm, acute, mar-

gins ciliate. Flowers 1–2 on lateral side of scaly or foliaceous leaves, bracteate, small; pedicel 3–8 mm, puberulous, bract subulate, 1–2 mm. Calyx 5-partite, sepals 1.3–1.5 x 0.4–0.5 mm perberulous. Corolla 0.6–1.2 cm long, straight, divided almost to the base, dark purple and variously variegated on inner side, pale-green-purple outside, corolla tube short c. 1.5 mm, corolla lobes, broad at base tapering and filiform at apex, connate and twisted at tips, usually glabrous or sparsely hairy on inner side. Corona biseriata, 2–2.5 mm in diameter, outer corona cupular of 5—bifid lobes, lobes glabrous outside, hairy on margins and inner side or rarely entirely hairy; inner corona of 5 dark purple procumbent processes which bent upon stigma, usually glabrous or sparsely hairy, each process usually trifid at apex with 2 small lateral lobes and one large middle lobe procumbent on stigma. Pollinia erect, minute, yellow attached to brown carriers by short caudicles. Pistil 1–2 mm long, style indistinct, stigma pentangular and fleshy. Follicles usually in pairs; 5–11 x 0.2–0.3 cm, horn-shaped, tapering at apex. Seeds 8–12